

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method adopted by a client-server system 1100 comprising a plurality of clients and a server cluster, ~~which includes said server cluster including~~ a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients and allows ~~[[the]]~~ a number of said servers to be changed dynamically, ~~wherein each of said clients comprising:~~
 ~~detects~~ detecting the number of servers composing said server cluster by one of the clients;
 ~~right after detecting an increase in said number of servers, sets~~ setting an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value ~~small in comparison with~~ smaller than that set for each of ~~said other~~ the remaining servers in the server cluster by said one client, right after detecting an increase in the number of servers; and
 ~~transmits~~ transmitting out requests to said servers on the basis of said set allocation from said one client to the server cluster.
2. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value increasing with the lapse of time.
3. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein said detection of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.
4. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients:
 acquires information on a performance of said newly added server; and
 sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.

5. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients:
 - acquires information on a state of said newly added server; and
 - sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.
6. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 5, wherein said information on a state of said newly added server includes at least a cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio or the number of requests each waiting for a processing turn.
7. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 1 wherein:
 - said client-server system has a management server for managing the number of servers composing said server cluster; and
 - a notice received from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.
8. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1 wherein:
 - said client-server system has a management server for acquiring information on a performance of each of said servers; and
 - each of said clients:
 - acquires said information on a performance of each of said servers;
 - sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.
9. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
10. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

11. (Original) A load distribution method according to claim 10 wherein:
said client-server system has storage apparatus connected to said servers;
each of said servers holds directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus; and
each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server where said allotment of said directory information storable in said individual server represents an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.
12. (Currently Amended) A client-server system ~~comprising~~ including a plurality of clients and a server cluster, ~~which includes~~ said server cluster including a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients and allows ~~[[the]]~~ a number of said servers to be changed dynamically, ~~wherein~~
each of said clients ~~includes~~ comprising:
a load-setting unit for setting an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers;
a server-count detection unit for detecting the number of servers composing said server cluster; and
a load distribution unit for transmitting out requests to each of said servers on the basis of allocations ~~each~~ set by said load-setting unit, ~~as said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers; and~~
wherein right after ~~said server-count detection unit detects~~ the detection of an increase in said number of servers by said server-count detection unit, said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value ~~small in comparison with~~ smaller than that set for each of ~~said other~~ the remaining servers in the server cluster.
13. (Original) A client-server system according to claim 12 wherein:
each of said clients has an allotment-holding unit for holding an allotment set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server; and
said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of

said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as said allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

14. (Original) A client-server system according to claim 13, said client-server system further comprising storage apparatus connected to said servers wherein:

each of said servers is provided with a directory-information-holding unit for holding directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus;

said clients are provided with a management server for holding quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information storable in said individual server; and

said load-setting unit sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing said quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server.

15. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 2 wherein:

said client-server system has a management server for managing the number of servers composing said server cluster; and

a notice received from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.

16. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 2, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

17. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 3, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

18. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 4, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.

19. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 5, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
20. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 6, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
21. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 7, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
22. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 15, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.
23. (Previously Presented) A load distribution method according to claim 8, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting the number of connections for communications with said servers.